



*Texas*

#2 2021

# DPSOA Magazine



**TROOPER CHAD WALKER**

**Killed in the Line of Duty**

## DPSOA Magazine

Volume 32, Number 2, 2021

### TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

5821 AIRPORT BLVD.  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78752

(512) 451-0571 • 1-800-933-7762

[www.dpsoa.com](http://www.dpsoa.com)

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# Texas DPSOA Magazine



Issue 2, 2021

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**On the Cover:** Trooper Chad Walker killed in the line of duty.

#### ATTN: Readers

The Texas DPSOA greatly appreciates its advertisers and the support they have given throughout the years. We hope that you will utilize their services and products. However, some products and services may not be right for certain individuals. Therefore, please consider every product or service and make sure it is right for you, the consumer. Thank you, again, to every advertiser and reader of this publication.

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## WRITING FOR THE MAGAZINE

DPSOA encourages its members and any other persons in the law enforcement community to write articles for publication in DPSOA Magazine. We are looking for articles related to law enforcement, and especially related to the Texas Department of Public Safety or any of its divisions. Articles relating to sporting or professional experiences are welcome, too. You could be read by readers across Texas, as well as by numerous agencies across the country. Below is a list of guidelines for articles to be submitted to DPSOA Magazine. Pick up your pens and start writing. The magazine needs your input.

### Submission Guidelines

#### Manuscript Specifications

*Length:* 1,000 to 3,000 words on 5 to 12 pages double spaced.

*Format:* All manuscripts should be in MS Word format. Please include your name, address and subject/title on each page.

#### PUBLICATION/BASIS FOR JUDGING

##### Manuscripts:

Manuscripts will be judged on the following points: factual

accuracy, style and ease of reading, structure and logical flow, length, relevance to audience, analysis of information.

##### Query Letters:

The Editor suggests that authors submit a detailed one- to two-page outline before writing an article. This is intended to help authors but does not guarantee publication of the article.

##### Author Notification:

Receipt of manuscript will be confirmed. Letters of acceptance or rejection will be sent following review. Articles accepted for publication cannot be guaranteed a publication date.

##### Copyright:

Articles are copyrighted individually by the authors and rights are transferred to DPSOA Magazine for one time printing.

##### Editing:

DPSOA Magazine reserves the right to edit all manuscripts.

##### Submission:

Authors may contact the district representatives in their areas or manuscripts may be forwarded directly to: [editor@dpsoa.com](mailto:editor@dpsoa.com).

### ABOUT THE TEXAS DPSOA . . .

The Texas Department of Public Safety Officers Association is a non-profit Association organized under the State of Texas.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Association shall be: To cooperate with the Administration in ensuring the best law enforcement agency in the state; to assist all Department personnel in improving their educational achievements; to promote professionalism within the Department and to work in all regards for the betterment of all Department personnel and the citizens of the State of Texas.

**Membership:** Membership in the DPSOA is as follows: All DPS Commissioned Officers, including retired personnel, and members of the DPS Communications Service where TCLEOSE Certification is required by DPS, including retired personnel and including Charter Members, Polygraph Operators, Chemists and Chemist Technical Supervisors in the DPS, including retired personnel.

### DPSOA Change of Address Form

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LAST FIRST M. INITIAL

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**\*\*Please note: You may also visit [www.dpsoa.com](http://www.dpsoa.com) under the Members Only Area to submit any address changes.\*\***

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## PRESIDENT

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*Richard Jankovsky, III,  
President, DPSOA*

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Greetings from the Coastal Bend!

This is the first article for 2021 and unfortunately, I find myself having to write about the tragic murder of Trooper Chad Walker.

Chad started his career with DPS in my backyard. Corpus Christi was his first duty station. I had the pleasure of meeting him from time to time. Tragically, Chad stopped to help a stranded motorist and was murdered by the coward that was in the car. Chad was a dedicated father, husband, son, Trooper, and member of his community. In April of this year, I was able to meet Chad's father and son Ethan during a spring turkey hunt. We had a wonderful time, and I consider myself blessed to have been a part of such a memorable event! Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all the Walker family.

The day following Chad's funeral one of our members, Trooper Juan Tovar, was injured in a shooting. Juan was struck in the face by the gunfire but is doing well. He has several surgeries ahead of him, but Juan has an extremely positive attitude. I have spoken with him a few times and I was inspired by his determination. We continue to pray for Juan and will be with him through his entire recovery process.

As we all know, by the time you read this the 87th Legislative Session will be complete. I can tell you that our team worked diligently before and during this session to advocate on behalf of ALL our members. In addition to supporting the agency's budget requests and exceptional item requests, we advocated for several DPSOA initiatives that we felt would help our members. I am proud to report that with the support of the leadership of our elected officials, we had many successes this Session. We also actively monitored over 250 bills that we felt would impact us negatively and were able to prevent many of those bills from passing. Below I am going to list some of what I consider the "GREATEST" achievements of DPSOA this session. There are additional bills that will have a positive impact for our members, but



we simply do not have room to list all of them. These bills are not listed in any order as each of them are equally important in one way or another.

SB 1071 - This is a bill that was filed by Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa and sponsored by Rep. Rafael Anchia in the House. We have come to call this "The Danny Shown Bill". In 1988, 16 days before Christmas, Trooper Danny Shown was shot in the head while responding to a domestic disturbance. Trooper Shown lived but suffered serious injury. Since 1988 he has been retired at the salary he was receiving at the time of the incident. The current benefit for someone who is catastrophically injured in the line of duty is based on an amount equal to 100 percent of the

officer's average monthly compensation at the time of their injury. It does not take into consideration what the officer might have earned had their career not been cut short and is not adjusted for inflation. SB 1071 adjusts the disability retirement benefit to an amount based on the maximum salary authorized under the person's applicable position classification salary schedule as prescribed by the General Appropriations Act, as adjusted for time to time. We hope this change will give comfort and aid that should a catastrophic injury be incurred while serving and protecting this state in the line of duty, that the officer and their family will be taken care of over the long-term. Once this bill goes into effect in September, Danny and other troopers who are considered to have a total disability under federal social security law will see an increase in their monthly state benefits.

SB 321 - This is a bill that was filed by Senator Joan Huffman and sponsored by House Appropriations Chairman Dr. Greg Bonnen to move our state pension system toward actuarial soundness. Currently, the unfunded liability of our main ERS fund is approximately \$14.7 billion. SB 321 seeks to improve the solvency of ERS by establishing a new cash balance benefit retirement plan for new state employees and the elected class starting to work on or after September 1, 2022 and requiring the state to make annual amortization payments to ERS to pay down the existing unfunded liability.

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Again, this plan will not affect the retirement benefits of any current or retired employees. It will help all of us by ensuring our pension fund is sound. The bill achieves this by requiring the state to make an actuarially determined payment each fiscal year in the amount necessary to amortize all ERS unfunded actuarial liabilities by not later than fiscal year 2054. This is an approximately \$510 million per year commitment through fiscal year 2054 in addition to the state's regular pension contributions. This is HUGE! This will ensure that each of us does not have to worry about our retirement fund running out of money. The bill also paves the way for the fund to be declared actuarily sound, which ERS indicates would be within the next three to five years with investment growth. When that happens, then we can advocate for some type of retirement enhancement for current retirees. As we know, once we retire, it is made clear that we will not receive anything over the amount at retirement. We also know that no changes can be made until the fund is actuarily sound. Once sound, we can try for some type of enhancement.

SB 2222 – This bill was filed by Chairwoman Senator Jane Nelson and Senator Joan Huffman and the companion bill in the house was filed by Chairman James White and Representatives Kyle Kacal and Sam Harless. This bill funds bullet resistant windshields for our patrol cars. This WILL SAVE LIVES! This is not a bill that we had asked to be filed, but once filed we were dedicated to seeing it through the session. We are excited to see this come to fruition. We know that DPS is actively researching the best product and eager to get the patrol cars equipped!

HB 3512 – This is memorial highway sign bill filed by Rep. Terry Canales and sponsored by Senator Charles Schwertner. Troopers being honored with a memorial highway sign in this bill include:

- Trooper Chad M. Walker
- Highway Patrol Trooper Moises Sanchez
- Highway Patrol Trooper Troy Hogue
- Highway Patrol Corporal Willie Dale Taylor
- Highway Patrol Trooper Javier Arana, Jr.
- Highway Patrol Sergeant William J. Kuhnle
- Highway Patrol Trooper Ralph G. Zerda
- Vehicle Inspection Trooper Richard Cottle
- Highway Patrol Trooper Timothy McDermott
- Highway Patrol Trooper Mark Phebus
- Highway Patrol Trooper David Rucker
- Highway Patrol Trooper Daniel Higdon

We appreciate Representative Canales and Senator Schwertner honoring these heroes who sacrificed their lives.

SB 1 – This is the state budget and was filed by Senate Finance Chairwoman Jane Nelson and House Appropriations Chairman Dr. Gregg Bonnen. This budget included a pay INCREASE for all commissioned officers and communications operators. This long-awaited pay raise is not only well-deserved but would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of the DPSOA. The disparity between trooper pay and salaries and benefits at urban police departments has grown over the years making it harder for us to retain experienced officers and prevent early retirements. A double-digit pay raise will keep more of our best and brightest on the job. We are grateful to members of both houses and both parties for supporting this cause. We give special recognition to Lt. Governor Patrick and his staff who listened to our concerns and championed the pay raises. We also extend special thanks to Representative Dr. Mary Gonzalez, Rep. Trent Ashby, and Chairman James White. All went above and beyond to assist in our efforts to pass the pay raise.

This marks the first Communication Operator pay raise since 2009, and the first Schedule C pay raise since 2013, and it was anything but guaranteed even just a few weeks ago. Your DPSOA representatives were very clear with legislators and the leadership that a sizable bump in pay was needed as troopers not only respond to crimes and emergencies in their respective communities but also take on special assignments along the border, assisting with emergency response and defending the Capitol and large urban areas during moments of civil unrest. More has been demanded of the men and women of law enforcement and the men and women who act as the voice behind the scenes than any time in recent memory, and it was important for state leaders to recognize this sacrifice with better pay. There is no doubt that Texas BACKS THE BLUE!

In addition to the legislative activity, we have had some tremendous fundraising activities that have taken place. Clay will be discussing these in his article. I can tell you this much, I am amazed at what we have been able to do for our members! I cannot imagine why anyone would not be a member.

I would like to close out my article with this, I am announcing that I will be running for re-election as President of DPSOA. I would like to thank everyone for their previous support, and I would appreciate your vote in the next election.

God Bless You and God Bless Texas!

Richard Jankovsky, III  
DPSOA President ☐

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# Those Who Keep Us Safe.

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## VICE PRESIDENT

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*Lt. T.J. Phillips,  
Vice President, DPSOA*

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Howdy!

I hope this finds you all in good spirits and health as we begin to transition to the summer months. The past few months have been extremely trying to everyone who works at DPS as we continue battling Covid, civil unrest, the border, legislative session and unfortunately the death of one of our own, Trooper Walker. Not to mention the active shooter and subsequent life-threatening injury to Trooper Tovar. These events can take a toll on anyone and while things may not be slowing down, I hope that each of you finds a positive and constructive way to process and deal with these issues. DPSOA has always prided itself on being supportive to our members in need; not only financial, but by just being available to those who need to talk, vent or whatever else is needed.

The events that transpired with Trooper Walker will always be etched in our hearts and souls for a lifetime. I was not fortunate enough to have ever met Trooper Walker but his legacy in the Department, his community and most importantly his family will live strong for generations to come. I was very proud to see the outpouring of generosity, support, and donations from DPS personnel, communities, and other organizations. DPSOA worked tirelessly with vetting and collecting donations, ensuring the family had what they needed in this critical time, and will continue to help keep Trooper Walker's legacy alive for generations to come.

Most of you have known that the 87th Legislative Session has been going full steam for the past few months, and we are incredibly grateful to our legislative team for all their hard work and dedication. Clay Taylor and Richard Jankovsky have shined throughout the session, and I want to express my gratitude to both for their hard work and dedication. I am sure Clay and Richard will touch on this subject in their respective articles. I would like to give a huge thank you to all the communications operators and commissioned personnel. While DPSOA was able to help secure a lot of shortfalls in the pay scale and retirement fund, it is directly contributed



to the hard work and dedication to duty that you all have shown time and time again. No other agency in Texas, and I would bet no other agency in America, could do what was asked. DPS has secured the Capitol, assisted with Covid responses, defended the Alamo and other areas of civil unrest, responded to the great freeze (twice), and began rotations to the border. These are just a portion of the countless other support that DPS has provided throughout 2020 and 2021. This dedication to duty and selfless service made it very easy for us to speak on your behalf at the Legislature.

I want to remind everyone of the upcoming DPSOA Conference September 30 - October 2 in Rockwall. Conrad

has been working diligently to make this conference a great experience for those who attend during the past two sessions. Please reach out to our staff at the DPSOA store for any questions or additional information. I also want to thank the staff at our DPSOA store for the outstanding job of clearing and organizing our store. They also have done a great job with the online orders and ordering products that our members have either requested or have a high interest in purchasing.

In closing, I wish everyone continued success throughout the summer. While we have endured a long 2020 and a rough start to 2021, we at DPSOA continue to stay ready to support all our members. Regardless of the challenges ahead, I believe we will always be successful, and that success is a direct result of your selfless duty, sacrifice and service to our profession. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of your Field Directors, Regional Reps, Secretary/Treasurer, Vice-President, President or Executive Director if we can ever be of assistance. Until next time!

T.J. Phillips  
DPSOA Vice President

□



## SECRETARY / TREASURER

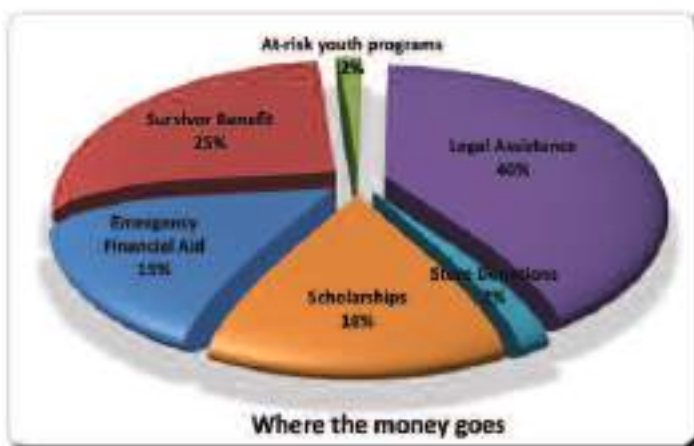
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*Veronica Gideon,  
Secretary / Treasurer, DPSOA*

Greetings from Austin,

The Texas Department of Public Safety Officer's Association (DPSOA) is one of the largest organizations advocating for Troopers, Rangers, CID Agents, Communications Personnel, and Forensic Scientists. DPSOA is a 501 (c) (5) organization funded by member dues and any monies generated at our annual conference, hosted by a Regional Representative. DPSOA represents over 5000 active and retired members. The DPS Troopers Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit that supports the DPSOA and was founded in 2010.

So, where do your monthly dues go to? DPSOA allocates membership dues to fund At-Risk youth programs, survivor benefits, legal assistance, emergency financial assistance, scholarships, and donations.



Over \$515,000 has been awarded to deserving high school students from diverse social, economic, and educational backgrounds through the Scholarship Program.

DPSOA supports its members when they experience hardship, providing emergency financial assistance at the Board of Directors' discretion with over \$462,000 delivered to members.



DPSOA members are eligible to receive a payment from the Death Benefit Fund with \$10,000 for a line of duty death and \$5,000 for all other deaths. Supplemental insurance can provide additional funds, as necessary. DPSOA has distributed over \$796,000 to this cause.

DPSOA continues to support At-Risk Youth Programs to include the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. To date we have distributed approximately \$50,000.

DPSOA provides legal representations and legal services to qualified members through Lyon, Gorsky and Gilbert L.L.P. out of Dallas. This includes:

- On-scene response, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Legal representation in on duty events.
- A free will within the first 12 months of joining DPSOA.

During the 87th Legislative Session, DPSOA supported and advocated for the following:

- Pay Raises for Schedule C employees, from 12.2% to 16.7% depending on rank.
- Pay Raises for Communications personnel of 25%.

I want to take this opportunity to thank DPSOA Executive Director Clay Taylor, DPSOA President Richard Jankovsky, and our Legislative Team for their time, effort, dedication, and professionalism throughout the Legislative Session. Your hard work did not go unnoticed.

Veronica Gideon  
DPSOA Secretary / Treasurer

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## DPSOA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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*Clay Taylor,  
Executive Director, DPSOA*

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Greetings from the Capital of Texas!

Since our last magazine published so much has taken place. First, I would like to send my condolences to Trooper Chad Walker's family. Trooper Walker was ambushed while checking on a stranded motorist in Limestone County near Mexia on March 26, 2021. He later succumbed to his wounds. Survivors include his wife Tobie, and 4 children ages 2 months to 15 years old.

Thirteen days later April 8th Trooper Juan Tovar was shot while attempting to locate an active shooter who earlier shot 5 people at a manufacturing plant in Bryan, TX. Trooper Tovar sustained facial injuries but was able to return fire and give information that led to the capture of the active shooter. Trooper Tovar sustained serious injuries but survived, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

On April 23rd, a CID Special Agent was shot while performing an investigation near Haslet, TX. He is expected to make a full recovery. Being in law enforcement is as dangerous as I have ever seen it in my life. We pray for these brave heroes who risked their lives to keep the rest of us safe.

I am also immensely proud of the work the DPS officers Association and DPS Troopers Foundation has done to assist in these events. We have raised over \$300,000 to assist the families and help with recovery efforts while our members cannot return to work. That overwhelming support is because of your efforts to donate to these worthy causes. I was overwhelmed at the public support we received from people who offered everything from golf tournaments to fishing tournaments, crawfish boils, selling T-shirts, or just dropping off cards of support. So many people reached out to ask how they could help, and for that we are grateful.

During all this, the 87th Legislature convened in January 2021. For the first two months of the session, little went on, with COVID protocols preventing attending or even getting in the Capitol building. The DPSOA (DPS Officers Association) legislative agenda was much like that of the last session, with a much-needed pay raise for schedule C and Commu-



nications, fixing the pension so that consideration could be given for retirees for a cost of living or 13th check. With revenues down from the Comptroller's report, it did not seem there were funds available to accomplish these goals. In addition, we worked on adding twelve new Highway Memorials for Troopers killed in the line of duty. Because of the types of shootings that Troopers Walker and Tovar were involved in, we supported passage of outfitting patrol vehicles with bullet-resistant glass. We also helped with the passage of the Daniel Shown Bill, which gives employees who sustain a line of duty career-ending injury before 1990 proper compensation instead of Worker's Compensation (those injured after 1990 are covered under a

federal law). I owe a huge thanks to Richard Jankovsky for taking sole responsibility for working the legislature during my absence because of hip replacement surgery. He and our lobbyists Ky Ash, Eric Wright and Myra Leo are a talented team. I am happy to report that the Legislature passed \$139 million for a 12.2% to 16.7% pay raise for schedule C employees, and \$5.2 million for much needed raises for Communications personnel.

Senator Joan Huffman filed SB 321 which created a 4th tier employee, taking effect September 1, 2022. This plan includes a cash balance plan with 6% contributions from new state employees and an additional 2% for those in LECOS (Law Enforcement and Custodial Officers Supplemental). The plan guarantees a 4% return on investment, and profit sharing of anything up to 7%. Employees are vested after 10 years of service and can retire after 20 years of service (age no longer matters). Upon retirement an annuity is calculated at 150% of the employee's balance in ERS, and 300% of the employee's balance in the LECOS (Law Enforcement and Custodial Officers Supplemental) fund. To assist with the previous employees plans who are still active or retired and in Tiers 1-3, the Legislature appropriated \$510 million over the next 32 years to fix the existing shortfall. It is believed that in 3 to 6 years the funds will be actuarially sound, and if so, the Legislature can grant a COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) or 13th check to retirees.

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*Memorial for Trooper Chad Walker.*



*Troopers and police officers from around the country attend the Trooper Chad Walker funeral in Groesbeck.*



*Law Enforcement Memorial Service held at DPS Headquarters in Austin.*



*DPS Honor Guard at the Law Enforcement Memorial at Headquarters in Austin.*



*TANMAR, Tanner rentals and Work Designs in Midland hosted a crawfish boil, with a raffle and donated all proceeds to DPSTF.*



*Trooper Tom Nipper Memorial Highway sign is erected on IH-35 in Bell County.*



*Raffle booth at TANMAR Rentals crawfish boil in Midland.*



continued



Bass tournament at Lake Bob Sandlin in Mount Pleasant. This 'Big Ass Bass' winner weighed 6.2 lbs.



2nd place to Chris Gekiere and Carson Colvin.



3rd place to Michael Sparks and Jeff Johnson.

This is my 10th Legislative session, and first as the Executive Director of DPSOA/DPSTF. We have had tremendous success in past sessions but none like I witnessed this session. If this were a sports analogy, we hit a grand slam in the bottom of the 9th in game 7 of the World Series to win. Thanks to all our law enforcement partners who worked on these bills and to Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick, Speaker Phelan, Senate Finance Chairman Nelson, Appropriations Chairman Dr. Bonnen, Vice-Chairman Dr. Mary

Gonzales, Representative Trent Ashby and all the Legislators who supported these important bills. The men and women who serve the State of Texas deserve to have competitive salaries and a sound retirement. Huge steps were taken to ensure that happens.

I am happy to report that the DPS Troopers Foundation met and approved \$50,000 to be awarded in scholarships for the 2021-2022 academic year. The scholarship committee will meet in June to award those scholarships to those who have applied and meet the criteria. The family of Retiree Board member Buddy Owles who passed away in 2020 requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to DPSTF in honor of Buddy. Almost \$1000 was received so the board is matching that and will award a \$2000 scholarship to the top candidate from the applicants. This association and foundation continue to serve members better than any other organization I know. I am so proud of the service we provide. The scholarships alone are much more than associations five times our size provides.

I hope you are making plans to attend the annual DPSOA/DPSTF Conference and training in Rockwall at the Hilton Hotel September 30, 2021, through October 2, 2021. Conrad Rodriguez is chairing this Conference and has been busy making sure it will be a magnificent event for all who attend. You can register online for all events at **Fall Conference (texasdpsoa.com)**.

Please have a safe and wonderful summer. Let me know if I can be of any assistance. Until next time.....

Clay Taylor  
Executive Director  
director@texasdpsoa.com



2021 Scholarship recipient Brook Roberson.

# Trooper Chad Walker 2015-2021

## Killed in the Line of Duty



**AUSTIN** – It is with great sadness the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) announces the death of a Highway Patrol Trooper following a shooting incident in Limestone County.

Trooper Chad Walker, 38, was stopping to assist a driver near Mexia, Texas, around 7:45 p.m. Friday, March 26, when he was shot multiple times. Trooper Walker was transported to Baylor Scott & White – Hillcrest Hospital in Waco, where he later died from his injuries.

"Our DPS family is absolutely heartbroken at the loss of one of our brothers in uniform who was killed in the line of duty," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "Texas Highway Patrol Trooper Chad Walker was committed to protecting the people of Texas. His sacrifice will never be forgotten, and we ask that you keep his family, friends and colleagues in your prayers during the difficult days ahead."

Trooper Walker was a loving husband and father to four children. He is a second-generation peace officer. His career in law enforcement began in 2003 with the Groesbeck Police Department and continued as a member of the Athens Police Department, Henderson Co. Sheriff's Office, and Limestone Co. Sheriff's Office. Trooper Walker joined DPS in 2015 and was stationed in Groesbeck. He is the 223rd DPS officer to die in the line of duty since 1823.

In his final lifesaving act, Trooper Walker's organs were donated to save others. □

# Injuries to Trooper Juan Tovar and Special Agent

On April 8th, 2021, for unclear reasons, an employee of the Kent Moore Cabinet Company in Bryan, Texas opened fire with a handgun on his co-workers which resulted in the death of one individual and the serious injury of several others. Officers from multiple agencies, including Texas DPS, responded to the scene to provide assistance, but the suspect had escaped from the area prior to police arrival. Fairly quickly, a white male suspect in the shootings was identified and it was determined that he resided in neighboring Grimes County.

Texas Highway Patrol Troopers, DPS CID Special Agents, Texas Rangers, DPS Aircraft, and our local partners began to move toward the community of Iola in Grimes County to locate the suspect to prevent further harm to innocent civilians. Trooper Juan Tovar (THP Madisonville and B-2018 Academy graduate) heard the call and immediately responded from Madison County to Grimes County. Trooper Tovar intercepted the suspect near his residence and the suspect immediately opened fire on Trooper Tovar with a semi-automatic rifle. Trooper Tovar's vehicle was struck thirteen times as he quickly attempted to reverse a long distance out of the area while returning fire on the suspect. Unfortunately, during the firefight, Trooper Tovar was struck in the left eye with a rifle round which had penetrated his patrol vehicle's windshield. Other troopers and local deputies immediately rendered aid and Trooper Tovar was ultimately airlifted to St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Bryan in serious but stable condition. He was conscious and talking with family and co-workers at the hospital prior to being sedated to stabilize his wound and condition. The suspect was apprehended by fellow troopers a short time later without additional incident.

Trooper Tovar has a long recovery in front of him with lasting effects, but he is currently surrounded by his family, friends and his co-workers who have come from far away to be by his side. Please keep Juan and his family in your thoughts and prayers as they begin to work through the healing process.



In a separate incident on April 23rd, a Texas Dept of Public Safety Criminal Investigations Division (CID) Special agent was conducting an investigation in the Haslet area. During the investigation, the Special Agent encountered a suspect at a residence in the 14,000 block of Mainstay Way. The suspect discharged a firearm and struck the Special Agent. The Special Agent did not return fire. The suspect was not injured and was taken into custody. The Special Agent was transported to JPS hospital in Ft. Worth with serious but not life-threatening injuries. □



# DPSOAA Rockwall Conference



Blessings to all! I hope and pray everyone is well and staying healthy. The summer months are upon us and if your schedules are as full and crazy as my family's schedule, I hope you will still find time to enjoy the blessings and all that is new around you. As we cherish those who are closest to us, I hope you will continue to reach out to others in the DPS family to build on the support for our law enforcement family. Planning and preparation for the 2021 DPSTF/DPSOA Conference, September 30th through October 2nd, 2021, at the Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakefront Hotel in Rockwall is coming together and we are looking forward to seeing everyone again "face to face". Conrad Rodriguez is the Conference Chair, and I am also assisting and coordinating all the spouse events. We will again have the Harbor Cruise on Thursday evening, which you can register for in advance this year. Be sure to go

and register on the DPSOA website: [www.texasdpsaa.com](http://www.texasdpsaa.com). You can register for all events online or print out the forms and mail them in. There is also the opportunity for ad sales and sponsorships for those who are interested. We are looking forward to gathering with DPS family and friends. Do not forget the Auxiliary has our own website: [www.txdpsoaa.weebly.com](http://www.txdpsoaa.weebly.com). Be sure to look at it and check out our Facebook group, Texas DPSOA Auxiliary. Look for the "closed" group. We would like to invite all active members to join us and keep in touch with your fellow Auxiliary members. The Auxiliary also has a page for each Region that is open to all DPS Spouses. Region Representatives needed. Are you a proud DPS Spouse and want to get involved with your DPSOA Auxiliary? We are currently seeking representatives in the following regions to promote/support the best Law Enforcement Agency in Texas and

their families. Each Regional Representative must reside in the region they represent. The Rep plans activities in her/his Region to reach out to spouses; submits updates and information for the Newsletter and on their Region Facebook page; creates and supports fundraisers in their Region. If you are interested in being a Representative, please contact Tes Rodriguez at [dpsoaa@gmail.com](mailto:dpsoaa@gmail.com). Representatives needed for the following vacant positions: Region 2 – Houston (Southeast Texas) Region includes the following districts – Houston, Beaumont, Conroe, Bryan; Region 4 – El Paso (West Texas) Region includes the following districts – Midland, El Paso; Region 5 – Lubbock (Northwest Texas) Region includes the following districts – Lubbock, Amarillo, Abilene. Prayers for everyone to stay safe and healthy.

Blessings, Tes Rodriguez DPSOA Auxiliary President [www.txdpsoaa.weebly.com](http://www.txdpsoaa.weebly.com) [dpsoaa@gmail.com](mailto:dpsoaa@gmail.com). □



## 2021 Annual DPSOA/DPSTF Conference Registration Form

September 30-October 2, 2021

Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakeside Hotel  
2055 Summer Lee Dr., Rockwall, TX 75032; (214) 771-3700

Standard Single King or Double Queen Room Rate:  
\$125/Night plus tax – Free Self-Parking for hotel guests, Valet available

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size (guest): \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendee: \$175**

**Spouse/Guest: \$125**

Registration fee includes all meals Friday and Saturday.

Cash Bar Only at Saturday evening event.

**TCOLE Training Only: \$50/day**

**Optional Golf Registration: \$100** (per player – Please complete separate golf registration)

**Contact Dallas/Rockwall Hilton for hotel reservations at (214) 771-3700**

(Reservations to be made by attendee – Special DPSOA rate of \$125/night)

I have enclosed my registration form and check # \_\_\_\_\_ for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

(Please make checks payable to: DPSTF Conference) Check days attending: ☐ Th ☐ Fr ☐ Sa

I have enclosed my registration form and will pay by Credit Card below.

I will be registering for Thursday's GOLF

*Please complete and submit separate registration form for Thursday's Golf*

I will be attending the Thursday night Party Barge Harbor Cruise: \$10 per person

I will be registering for Friday's TCOLE Training (TBA)

Please mail completed registration form to: 2021 DPSOA Conference  
PO Box 1182  
Rockwall, TX 75087

Or Email to: [DPSOARockwall2021@gmail.com](mailto:DPSOARockwall2021@gmail.com)

AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



☐ CASH ☐ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AM/EXP ☐ DISCOVER

☐ CC #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ (mm / yy)

3 Digit Code on back of card (MC, Visa, Discover): \_\_\_\_\_ or 4 Digit Code on front of card (American Express): \_\_\_\_\_

I am: ☐ a DPSOA Member ☐ a DPSOA Associate Member ☐ Not a Member of DPSOA

Mail to: DPSTF 2021 Conference, PO Box 1182, TX 75087

or Email to: [DPSOARockwall2021@gmail.com](mailto:DPSOARockwall2021@gmail.com)

Questions: Call your 2021 Conference Chair Conrad Rodriguez 254-855-9993



# Texas DPS Troopers Foundation

## 2021 DPSSOA/DPSTF Conference

### Donation Form

September 30-October 2, 2021 – Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakeside Hotel – Rockwall, TX

#### SPONSORSHIPS

##### Platinum Sponsor

☐ **\$10,000** Jacket Sizes: \_\_\_\_ Shirt Sizes: \_\_\_\_

Includes: Full page ad in Conference Magazine, 2 Conference Registrations, 2 Rooms for 2 nights at the Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakeside Hotel during conference, Plaque of Appreciation, 2 DPSSOA Jackets, 2 Golf Shirts.

##### Gold Sponsor

☐ **\$ 7,500** Jacket Sizes: \_\_\_\_ Shirt Sizes: \_\_\_\_

Includes: Full page ad in Conference Magazine, 1 Conference Registration, 1 Room for 2 nights at the Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakeside Hotel during conference, Plaque of Appreciation, 2 DPSSOA Jackets, 2 Golf Shirts.

##### Silver Sponsor

☐ **\$ 2,500** Jacket Sizes: \_\_\_\_ Shirt Sizes: \_\_\_\_

Includes: Full page ad in Conference Magazine, Plaque of Appreciation, 2 DPSSOA Jackets, 2 Golf Shirts.

##### Bronze Sponsor

☐ **\$ 1,500** Jacket Sizes: \_\_\_\_ Shirt Sizes: \_\_\_\_

Includes: Full page ad in Conference Magazine, Plaque of Appreciation, 1 DPSSOA Jacket, 2 Golf Shirts.

##### General Sponsor

☐ **\$ 1,000** Shirt Sizes: \_\_\_\_

Includes: Half page ad in Conference Magazine, Plaque of Appreciation, 2 Golf Shirts.

**\$750 Sponsor** – Includes Quarter Page Ad, 1 DPSSOA Jacket – Size: \_\_\_\_, 1 Golf Shirt – Size: \_\_\_\_

**\$500 Sponsor** – Includes Quarter Page Ad, 1 Golf Shirt – Size: \_\_\_\_

**\$200 Sponsor** – Includes Mention in the Magazine, 2 Ball Caps

The Texas DPS Trooper Foundation is a 501C3 tax-deductible non-profit charitable organization. Donations made to DPSTF are tax-deductible to the extent that the value of the donation exceeds the value of items, services, or other compensation that you receive in return for your donation. Please consult your tax advisors.

**Business Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DPSTF Sales Rep:** \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



☐ CASH ☐ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AM/EXP ☐ DISCOVER

NAME ON CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

CC #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (mm / yy)

3 Digit Code on back of card (MC, Visa, Discover): \_\_\_\_\_ or 4 Digit Code on front of card (American Express): \_\_\_\_\_

I am: ☐ a DPSSOA Member ☐ a DPSSOA Associate Member ☐ Not a Member of DPSSOA

Make checks payable to: **DPSTF Conference**

Mail to: 2021 DPSSOA Conference, PO Box 1182, Rockwall, TX 75087 or Email to: [DPSSOARockwall2021@gmail.com](mailto:DPSSOARockwall2021@gmail.com)

# 2021 Annual DPSOA Conference

Rockwall, TX

## Conference Magazine Sponsorship - AD SALES

Full Page Ad (3 Ball Caps).....	\$ 750
Half Page Ad (2 Ball Caps).....	\$ 500
Quarter Page Ad (1 Ball Cap).....	\$ 275
Business Card Ad (1 Ball Cap).....	\$ 200
Listing Only.....	\$ 100

All ads must be sent to 2021 DPSOA Conference for the conference magazine before or postmarked by August 8, 2021.

Send camera ready artwork or digital image in .jpg or .pdf format to "2021 DPSOA Conference" by mail OR email ([DPSOARockwall2021@gmail.com](mailto:DPSOARockwall2021@gmail.com)).

Remember: Forms must be received or postmarked by June 30, 2021 for Early Bird Sales Incentives Consideration.



DPSOA AD Salesperson: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



☐ BILL ME      ☐ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_      ☐ VISA      ☐ MC      ☐ AM/EXP      ☐ DISCOVER

☐ CC #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (mm / yy)

NAME ON CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

3 Digit Code on back of card (MC, Visa, Discover): \_\_\_\_\_ or 4 Digit Code on front (American Express): \_\_\_\_\_

I am:      ☐ a DPSOA Member      ☐ a DPSOA Associate Member      ☐ Not a Member of DPSOA

Mail to: 2021 DPSOA Conference, PO Box 1182 Rockwall, TX 75087 or Email to: [DPSOARockwall2021@gmail.com](mailto:DPSOARockwall2021@gmail.com)

Questions: Call your 2021 Conference Chair Conrad Rodriguez 254-855-9993

**Make checks payable to: DPSTF Conference**

**Mail to:      2021 DPSOA Conference  
                 PO Box 1182  
                 Rockwall, TX 75087  
                 (254) 855-9993**



DPSTF is a 501c3 Charitable Organization and donations are tax deductible.  
(please consult your tax advisor).



# 2021 DPSOA CONFERENCE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Buffalo Creek Golf Course, Rockwall, TX

Everyone is invited to play in the Tournament, even your sponsors. Please get your and their "REGISTRATION FORM" filled out and mailed in as soon as possible!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Date:** ..... **THURSDAY, September 30, 2021**

**Time:** ..... **"TEE OFF" TIME - TBA**

**Location:** ..... **Buffalo Creek Golf Course**

**PRICE:** ..... **\$100 PER PLAYER**

**DEADLINE:** ..... **September 16, 2021**

★ **Transportation To and From Golf Course will be Provided**

★ **Four Person Scramble Format, BLIND DRAW**

★ **Entry Fee: \$100 per person**

★ **Lunch will be Provided**

★ **Special Prizes: Hole in One, Longest Drive, Closest to Pin**

★ **Team Prizes**

## GOLF REGISTRATION FORM – Register 1, 2, 3, or 4 golfers

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Golf Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Golf Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Golf Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Golf Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Point Person Contact info: Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

# of players \_\_\_\_\_ X \$100 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_



☐ CASH ☐ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ VISA

☐ MC

☐ AM/EXP

☐ DISCOVER

NAME ON CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

CC #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (mm / yy) 3/4 digit code: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: DPSTF Conference

**Mail to: 2021 DPSOA Conference, PO Box 1182, Rockwall, TX 75087 or Email to: [DPSOARockwall2021@gmail.com](mailto:DPSOARockwall2021@gmail.com)**

Questions: Call Committee Chairman Conrad Rodriguez 254-855-9993

## REGION 1 – NORTH TEXAS

*Conrad Rodriguez,  
DPSOA Region 1 Representative*

Hello, from Region 1 in North Texas!

A lot has been happening across the area in 2021. As we again adjust to changing COVID restrictions, all services have had to adjust to additional duties and assignments. We continue to be spread thin and sacrifice time with the family. The men and women of DPS have come together and continue to carry on. Our Communication Operators, Troopers, Special Agents, Pilots and Rangers have been busy. Also, through hardships and tragedies across the state, several DPSOA members and members of the community have contributed to helping those in need. From GoFundMe accounts, DPSOA sending financial assistance, to private citizens providing financial or service assistance, we are taking care of each other. Retired Lt. Michael Sparks organized a fundraising fishing tournament and golf tournament in Mt. Pleasant in



*Trooper Brandon Love and Upsher County Sheriff's deputy rescue a calf in a frozen pond during the February winter storm.*



*Trooper Love and Sheriff's Deputies rescued this calf in a frozen pond.*

May in support of the Walker Family. Trooper Joseph Stewart coordinated collecting donated items from local businesses to help with raising funds for the Walker Family as well. The support and participation were wonderful!

I received a call from Van ISD staff who stated their Van High School AG Mechanic senior students wanted to build a fire pit to donate to support the Walker Family. Van HS Seniors Silvestre Cristobal and Brock Gilchrist, along with FFA AG Mechanics members sponsor and VHS AG Mechanics teacher Travis Jeffcoat did something special. Not only did they get to showcase their talents, but they gained a sense of pride in giving back and helping for such a worthy cause! These kids are being raised right with a giving heart!

In April, I received a call from Highway Patrol Sgt. Paul Sigman requesting support for a debrief meeting with multiple agencies. An unfortunate, multiple fatality accident in North Texas involving several children had occurred. Providing

*more ►*



continued



Van ISD Ag team members Silvestre Cristobal and Brock Gilchrist built this pit for auctioning for Trooper Chad Walkers fundraising event.



finger foods, snacks and drinks for all meeting participants was the least DPSOA could do.

In February, Trooper Brandon Love DPS Gilmer helped save a calf that fell through the ice on a small pond during our winter storm. After being alerted by several children, Trooper Love, and an Upshur County SO Lieutenant broke through the ice and pulled the calf to shore where it collapsed but recovered near its mother after a short time. Awesome job, guys!

Due to COVID concerns, the 2020 DPSOA/DPSTF Conference was cancelled, and we lost a fundraising opportunity. Now the great news. The 2021 DPSOA/DPSTF Conference will be happening September 30-October 2 again in Rockwall! It will be held at the Hilton Rockwall Lakefront Hotel once again. Get ready for some great speakers, informative events and needed training. And yes, a lot of fun to be had including a golf tournament, auction items and door prizes. So do not forget to visit [TexasDPSOA.com](http://TexasDPSOA.com) and register for the conference.

In closing, always keep our DPSOA members and non-members, along with friends and associates that have gone through tragedy in your thoughts and prayers.

Everyone take care and God bless!

Conrad Rodriguez  
DPSOA Region 1 Representative

□

## REGION 2 – SOUTHEAST TEXAS

*Richard Krenek*  
*DPSOA Region 2 Representative*

Hello from Region 2, Southeast, Texas.

Wow! What an incredibly successful legislative session for DPSOA and our members. The accomplishments made by DPSOA have been remarkable. Your DPSOA legislative committee worked diligently throughout the five-month session, lobbied for, and successfully obtained funding for a 12.2% or greater salary adjustment for all commissioned DPS employees. And if that is not impressive enough, the team was also responsible for a long overdue and life changing 25% salary adjustment for our highly dedicated communications operators. This



adjustment should have happened during the last session two years ago when the Driver License Division salary scale was reworked. The amount of money to fund the new pay scale for communications is relatively small and rounding errors within the General Appropriations Bill could have easily provided our communications operators this salary adjustment much sooner. So, congratulations to all DPSOA members who will receive a well-deserved and much more competitive salary beginning in September this year. And thank you to the DPSOA legislative committee for your countless hours of dedication while fighting uphill all the way for our membership.

Membership with DPSOA has never been as important as it is right now. If you know an eligible coworker who is not currently a member, please get with me and I will work to convince them to join.

Congratulations to Corporal Ronald Tompkins, HP Hempstead, for being recognized as the Waller County Peace Officer of the Year for 2020. Corporal Tompkins received this award in March and was nominated by Elton Mathis, Waller County District Attorney. Thank you, Mr. Mathis, for acknowledging



*Corporal Ronald Tompkins, Elton Mathis, Waller County DA, and Sergeant Zach Atchison.*



*PIO Sergeant Stephen Woodard conducting a presentation to the Lamons Global Corporation during Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Sergeant Woodard is a fantastic asset to the Rosenberg District.*



*Pictured with Trooper Thurston are Sheriff Bob Stallman (left) and Carl Wiggins (right). Mr. Wiggins represents the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Look at all the medals on his chest!*



*DPS patrol units lead Trent Kohleffel's funeral procession.*

Corporal Tompkins' strong work ethic and devotion to his trade.

Congratulations to Trooper Thomas Thurston, HP Manvel. Trooper Thurston was recognized for his bravery and heroic actions when he responded to a house fire in Brazoria County. Sheriff Bo Stallman nominated Trooper Thurston and presented the award.

*more ➤*



continued



Sergeant Richard Krenke, HP Columbus, and several members of the Bellville High School 2021 graduating class.



Three pictures of CVE troopers participating in the Texas Challenge event.



Trooper Alfonso Sanchez, HP Hempstead, working Governor Abbot's School Safety Initiative by spending time with young students and staff at St. Jerome Catholic School.

During the early hours of May 9, my trooper and friend, Paul Kohleffel, unexpectedly lost his 15-year-old son, Trent. I know Paul and his wife, Jacqueline, and their two younger sons, Trey and Wes are hurting. I have witnessed the Kohleffel family's remarkable dedication to each other and to their faith. The strength of the entire Kohleffel

family is incredible. It is difficult to see a friend having to live with such a tragic event. Trent's funeral took place on Saturday, May 15th. It was a beautiful ceremony with a large attendance. I want to personally thank each of the many DPS members who attended the visitation, funeral, and those who participated in the procession to the cemetery. It is

comforting to know our extended DPS family will always be there for support during such tragic times. Many other units participated and were randomly placed throughout the entire procession.

On behalf of the senior parent committee and Bellville High School, thank you to the Texas Department of Public Safety Officer's Association for the generous donation to be used during the Project Graduation program. Bellville HS Project Graduation took place immediately following the school's graduation ceremony on Friday, June 28th. Good luck to all graduates with your future goals. Stay focused and work hard.

Richard Krenke  
Southeast Texas Region

□

## REGION 3 – SOUTH TEXAS

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*Jarrad Williams*  
*DPSOA Region 3 Representative*

Hello Y'all!

Trooper Chad Walker began his career with DPS in Region 3 down in Corpus Christi and has many friends within the Region. His amazing sense of humor and comradery with coworkers will be greatly missed. Chad created a special memory for all the Troopers that were lucky enough to work with him down here in Corpus. He will forever be remembered and will be greatly missed.



Operation Lone Star (OST 2.0) has commenced and many of us are returning to assist with the growing problem. Hopefully, this will not last as long as the last operation and we can return home to our families safely. Being away from home and working the extra number of hours required of us is bound to put a strain on families. Remember to utilize your brothers and sisters to help with any needs that may arise. We must look out for each other and can lessen the burden these deployments cause.

Lastly, I want to personally thank all our Legislative team for all their hard work and many, many hours



*DPS Corpus Christi Retiree Shoot on May 14th, 2021.*



*Trooper Austin Salsberry switching roles and assisting with a brush fire near Rio Grande City.*

during the Legislative Session. Without our team and lobbyists, DPS would not have benefited as much as we did.

Also, thank you to all the employees who continued to work hard and

*more ➤*

# Those Who Keep Us Safe.



*continued*

completed the mission of the day. This was well noticed, and we were rewarded for it!

Jarrad Williams  
South Texas Regional  
Representative



*Relentless Defender shirts for Trooper Chad Walker fundraiser.*



*Retired Trooper Alex Benavides and PCO Aaron Mancha held a Skeet shoot BBQ and Benefit for recently fallen Trooper Chad Walker.*



*Trooper Cesar Cuevas and Senator Eddie Lucio Jr. during a Capitol deployment on the first day of the Legislative Session.*



*Corporal Eric Ortiz flying a drone while assisting Border Patrol to locate a subject.*

## REGION 4 – WEST TEXAS

*Justin Baker,  
DPSOA Region 4 Representative*

Hello West Texas,

As this article is being written, we are almost halfway through 2021. Feeling that sense of relief that 2020 had come to an end, we were all looking to 2021 with optimism that things would hopefully start getting back to normal. However, the beginning of 2021 had different plans as it burst through the door and said, "Hold my beverage." Midway through February we had the snowstorm of the century also known as Snowmageddon, Snowpocalypse, and Snowzilla. An artic front came blazing through Texas turning our beautiful state into a winter wonderland. Although breathtaking, Texas was caught slightly off-guard.



Many Texans had to briefly learn how to live without running water and electricity while temperatures were in the single digits for several days. The struggle was real but, like always, when our troopers were called to action, they responded without hesitation to serve and protect the citizens of Texas. In more recent months, our officers have been called upon to protect our borders from an onslaught of illegal immigration which could pose various threats to our state. Wave after wave, our Troopers, Special Agents, and Rangers are being deployed to the border. Although extremely challenging for both the officers and their families, it is important that we stay focused on the mission to protect and serve the citizens of Texas. Through great sacrifice, there is great reward. We can be thankful our state leaders and legislators have noticed these sacrifices and supported our officers during these unprecedented times. As we take on the second half of 2021, I would like to wish you and your families the absolute best.



*Trooper Dalton Boyls and his newborn. Troop out of Odessa.*



*Trooper David Lee Val Verde County Operation OLS.*



*CID Special Agents assisted by THP Canine seize 9 pounds of methamphetamine*



*Parents Brandon and Hope welcome Bryler Doremus Born on 03/02/21 9.35 lbs., 21 inches.*

[more](#) ➤



continued

### REMEMBERING CORPORAL MICHAEL SCHULZE'S

Corporal Mike Schulze dedicated his life to a life of service. He served over 27 years with Texas DPS as a Highway Patrol Trooper. Seventeen of those years, he served while stationed in "El Capitan" located in the Guadalupe Mountains. He never met a stranger and brought joy to many over the years. He was a great example of a peace officer, family man, and friend.

You will be dearly missed, Mountain Man Mike and never forgotten. May you rest in Peace.



*Remembering Corporal Mike Schulze (Mountain Mike).*

### WEST TEXAS REGION PROMOTIONS

As a result of the promotional selection process for Lieutenant, Criminal Investigations Division, West Texas Region, the following was selected and will be promoted effective 1/1/2021:

Lieutenant, CID, El Paso:  
Derek Pearson, Special Agent, CID,  
Alpine

As a result of the promotional selection process for Special Agent, Criminal Investigations Division, West Texas Region, the following was selected and will be promoted effective 3/15/2021:

Special Agent, CID, Midland:  
Ivan Renteria, Trooper III, HP, El Paso

As a result of the promotional selection process for Sergeant, Highway Patrol, West Texas Region, the following were selected and will be promoted effective 05/15/2021:

Sergeant, HP, Odessa (4A18):  
Matthew Skinner, Corporal IV, HP,  
Canton

Sergeant, HP, Pecos (4B16):  
Cesar A. Nunez, Trooper II, HP, Austin

Sergeant, HP, Pecos (4B17):  
Michael Herring, Trooper II, HP, Plano



*4/25/21 Trooper Nathan Parent and Sgt. Daniel Rangel seized 62.5lbs in Reeves County.*



*Regional Director Orlando Alanis and Retired Texas Ranger (Tom Green County Sheriff) Nick Hanna speaking at Tom Green County flag raising ceremony to kick off Police Week.*

As a result of the promotional selection process for Lieutenant, Criminal Investigations Division, West Texas Region, the following was selected and will be promoted effective 1/1/2021:

Lieutenant, CID, El Paso:  
Derek Pearson, Special Agent, CID,  
Alpine

### WEST TEXAS REGION ROW ACROSS TEXAS RACE

The 5th Annual West Texas Region Row/ Run Race has concluded. We had 75 participants this year and a total of 18,668,319 meters traveled. Three teams, as well as Jeremy Rowland,



*San Angelo Trooper seizes 360 grams of THC and 16 pounds of marijuana.*



*Wilma Cobos Winner of the SkiErg.*



Trooper Dustin Henderson, 1st Place Region IV 2021 Truck Challenge.



Trooper Scott Keane, 2nd Place Region IV 2021 Truck Challenge.



Midland Retiree Shoot.

reached Beaumont this year! Russell Weatherby traveled over a million meters, and a few others came close. On behalf of the DPSOA, I would like to thank everyone for participating. I know there were more challenges with this year's race, but I hope you enjoyed the race and accomplished the goals you set.

#### GROUP WINNERS:

##### Group 1 –

1st place – Max Gouge, 150,774 meters

##### Group 2 –

1st Place – Ram Garza, 815,689 meters

2nd Place – Courtney Jones, 704,920 meters

3rd Place – Valerie Bittler, 689,168 meters

##### Group 3 –

1st Place – Jeremy Rowland, 1,321,326 meters

2nd Place – Matt Mull, 345,643 meters

3rd Place – Cabora Domingue, 341,160 meters

##### Group 4 –

1st Place – Michael Carrasco, 922,151 meters

2nd Place – Vilma Cobos, 851,439 meters

3rd Place – David Lee, 750,001 meters

##### Group 5 –

1st Place – Jose Corral, 226,756 meters

##### Teams –

1st Place – Benjamin Brown & Russell Weatherby (Slow Rowers) 1,323,765 meters

2nd Place – Leonel Pizano & Haley Smith (The Not OG'S) 1,323,073 meters

3rd Place – Kobe Huett & Travis Payne (Meal Team 6) 1,323,183 meters

##### Raffle Winners –

SkiErg, – Vilma Cobos

30.30 Rifle – Melisa Flanigan

Fitbit Smart Watch – Carolyn Boyett

Congratulations to all, and I am already looking forward to the 6th Annual Row Race. I hope you are too! We would also like recognize and



San Angelo Retiree Shoot.

thank the following companies that helped to make this race a success:

Home Motors Wrecker  
Webb, Stokes, & Sparks  
Chick-fil-A

Justin Baker  
West Texas Regional  
Representative

## REGION 5 – NORTHWEST TEXAS

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*Joe Cannon,  
DPSOA Region 5 Representative*

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So far, the world seems to be continuing on the pace set by 2020. There may be a lot more changes in all our futures than we could have anticipated. Change is something that everyone looks at differently. I feel like the older we get the less we like things to change. There may be some degree of comfort associated with the things we are familiar with.



In the Northwest Texas Region, or Region 5, we have had a lot of folks show their support this year already. The community of Hereford supported the new Trooper Matt Myrick Highway Sign that was placed on US Highway 60 in his honor. Matt was a phenomenal man, a great father, and a great Trooper. It is great to see how much support he still has in the community almost two decades after he passed.

Trooper Chad Walker and his family are on most of our minds these days. There is a lot of support for Trooper Walker and other past Troopers who have been taken too early. Amarillo Comms PCO Olivia Gonzalez is still out there honoring as many as she can each time an opportunity shows itself. Our entire Communications Division works hard every single hour of every single day. This year, DPSOA was extremely crucial in securing a 25% percent pay increase for all of them. We appreciate them today and every day.

5C Troopers helped to secure Meals on Wheels deliveries during the cold weather we all experienced here in the State of Texas. The bottom line, between statewide riot deployments, "D-Town" deployments, gang task force deployments, capitol duty deployments, border deployments, and local task force deployments is that the Highway Patrol will respond to where we are sent. We keep the citizens of Texas safe 24 hours a day, seven days a week. DPSOA was also extremely crucial this session in securing a pay increase for Troopers and DPS Command.

This year we have had destructive and upsetting issues bring devastating events to our DPS family. The nation is still recovering from the media-fueled politicizing of the COVID epidemic. Media attacks on law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys targeting police, deployments, and officer-targeted attacks, have been eating at morale. Constant

deployments and being away from home can take their toll on anyone. A new political government and a constant fight between federal and state politicians adds stress to families and individuals, even if no one talks about it. We are all facing a higher level of stress from each one of these fronts.

Being able to take care of your family is one of the most important things we can do as first responders. Taking care of yourself is just as important. As I write this, DPS has created a panel named "The Courage to Survive and Thrive". That panel will be finished long before this article is published. I hope there is a good message there for those of us who need help and are not sure where to look or are hesitant to admit that or to seek it out. This is a great effort by DPS, and I hope it continues to expand. I do not have as much to offer when it comes to mental health advice, but I have quite a bit of experience when it comes to preparing yourself and your family financially.

Being prepared financially, with an emergency fund, insurance, and trusted financial advisors who can help a grieving and hurting spouse or family member are necessary tools we often overlook. I have submitted a guest article for this current magazine to give those topics more attention. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me on or off duty. I have a little over a year left with the Department before I hang it up- even though we have secured a phenomenal raise. I am more than willing to sit down over WebX, FaceTime, or in person, both on or off duty to help anyone from the law enforcement and first responder family make sure they have their financial plans in order and that they completely understand everything they are doing from investing in a 401k or 457 to making sure we have the right insurance for our survivors. 806.336.9100 is how you can reach me.

Right now, though, I would like to take a moment to say thank you to a few of the DPSOA folks who have given their all to ensure this current raise for commissioned personnel and the 25% percent increase for communications made it through this session. In addition, through the hard work of DPSOA, the Trooper Daniel Shown Bill, SB 1071 also made it through. One of the biggest things we do as Regional Representatives is answer questions and dispel rumors about things going on with DPSOA. The raise is always a big one.

I heard many rumors from many Troopers this session. While deployed at Capitol duty, I was told that the pay increase was dead more times than I can count. Getting a





*DPS Amarillo appreciates their communications personnel during Comm Week and the rest of the year too.*

pay increase, a better retirement plan, or anything that has to do with money will never be easy and it will never happen quickly. DPSOA is the only association that fights for you specifically as a DPS employee. No other agency has the resources to work one-on-one with the legislators specifically for YOU as a DPS employee. DPSOA has been working and will continue to work for all these things and more, specifically for Troopers, Rangers, CID, Lab Personnel, and Communications. It is not fast. It will not be immediate. There may not even be support from anywhere else. But we will work until it happens.

DPSOA President Richard Jankovsky, DPSOA Director Clay Taylor, and Ky Ash are three of the hardest working folks I meet with on a regular basis. I realize there are more people to thank who have been there and were there at the Capital during the past two sessions trying to get this pay increase (with a focus on Communications) through the legislators. I am sure you have read all this many times by now through Facebook and on other board members' articles. I just wanted to make sure everyone knew how much work these folks and others from DPSOA have put in on your behalf and how much they have accomplished. I am grateful for that.

Even after I retire, I plan to continue contributing the same amount I am right now in dues each month to DPSOA, regardless of the retiree membership rate. It is an association I believe in and have seen work for DPS employees when no other organization would. I have friends and family who work and have worked for the State of Texas who

have never in their entire career seen benefits or pay raises the way we have, and I am thankful for that. As always, as an association we will continue to work for those who need someone to speak on their behalf. Everything we do is always a work in progress, even after we achieve a milestone.

A lot has happened this year in region 5. Most everything has already been posted on the various pages for DPSOA on Facebook. Keep sending your photos and I will do my best to make sure they are included in the magazine. If you would like to contribute an article or information to help or honor other DPS employees, we would love to help you publish those. I will close this article with a statement from Regional Director Joe Longway who asked P.I.O. Johnny Bures to share this with me regarding Lubbock C.I.D. Special Agent Ben Wolf. As always, stay safe.

From Northwest Texas Region (Region 5) Regional Director Joe Longway:

I want to begin by congratulating all the Unsung Heroes recognized today from the various Lubbock area first responder agencies. The city and county of Lubbock and the Northwest Texas Region of Texas are safer places for its citizens to live and raise a family because of the exceptionally unselfish services you continue to provide. Thank you for your service.

I would also like to thank the Rotary Club of Lubbock and Prosperity Bank for sponsoring the Unsung Heroes Award Ceremony, affirming its steadfastness for the past 18 years, even during the recent pandemic.

Special Agent Benjamin Wolf joined the Texas Department of Public Safety in 2010. He was an outstanding Texas Highway Patrol Trooper for nine years before promoting to Special Agent in November of 2019 in the Criminal Investigations Division.

During Special Agent Wolf's tenure as a Trooper, he recovered five missing and exploited children. As an example of his ability to look beyond the traffic stop, in 2016, Trooper Wolf stopped a vehicle, leading to the recovery of a computer, flash drives, video cameras, and compact disks containing child pornography stolen during an automobile burglary in another county. As a result, three victims under the age of 14 were identified, leading to a suspect who was surreptitiously videoing the three victims.

He continues to teach Sex Trafficking Awareness Response and Technology Related Crimes against Children as a Human Trafficking Subject Matter Expert for the Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC) and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

Special Agent Wolf continues his strong passion for recovering missing and exploited children as a Criminal Investigations Special Agent. During the last calendar year, he was responsible for the recovery of seven missing children. He planned, organized, and directed a weeklong operation

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involving the recovery of twenty-six additional missing children in the Abilene, Amarillo, Dallas, Lubbock, and Wichita Falls areas of Texas, as well as the states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, and Virginia.

Special Agent Wolf established effective working relationships with local and federal agencies, including the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Texas DPS's Victims Services, and Crime Analysts. He has conducted extensive interviews alongside the Child Advocacy Centers and the Texas Rangers. Special Agent Wolf developed actionable intelligence and investigative leads through physical and electronic surveillance techniques and covert technical equipment to locate and recover missing children, reduce child sexual exploitation, prevent child victimization, and reunite families of runaways.

He has made a substantial and positive impact in our state by ensuring crime victims and the offenders committing these heinous crimes received justice. It is my honor to announce Special Agent Wolf as the Texas Department of Public Safety's Unsung Hero for 2020.

### **GUEST ARTICLE – INSURANCE AND FAMILY WELL-BEING**

This year seems to be trying its best to outdo last year. With the tragic incidents occurring at a ridiculously alarming rate and the increase in harm that seems to be mounting, there is an underlying level of stress that can eat at the families and the officers themselves. The stress I am asked most about is insurance and financial preparedness for traumatic incidents. When I talk about this, I generally talk about what happens when we die and whether the preparation, we have is enough.

Before I continue, I would like to tell you a little bit about where I am coming from. When I was working for DPS in my early years, I had about \$174,000 dollars in debt. In 2010 I decided I was done paying other people money. In the next two and a half years I paid off every dollar I owed to anybody. I never went back. I have a wife and a kid. My family and I have not used a credit card, credit, loans, or debt since 2010. Our house will be paid off within the next year and I plan retire from DPS when I am 45 years old (next year). Will I take a hit from ERS? Absolutely. My wife makes less than half of what I make yearly. Because



*Communications Operator Olivia Gonzales after a tailored workout Honoring Trooper Chad Walker.*

of the work we have done as a family to prepare, we now have options. If I want to retire, I can. If I want to stay and keep working for DPS, I can. I have options because of the work we have done. I want you to have those options as well; to have that security as well.

When most folks talk about dying, sometimes it is an uncomfortable topic. There are a few reasons for this. In my experience, one reason for this is that sometimes we think that we can avoid an earlier death by just not talking about it or that maybe if we do talk about it, we are more likely to die soon. Another reason seems to be that a lot of peace officers, most people in general, do not really believe they are going to die anytime soon. I certainly fall into this category.



*Just another Day in the Northwest Texas Region.*

When most of us hear about traffic accidents and bad drivers, we do not generally believe that we are the problem – it is the other drivers who we must worry about. That seems to be the same idea most people take when they think about dying and life insurance. This year and in recent years we have had our worst-case scenarios play out in real life with felonious assaults on Troopers. This hits home for almost all of us as we reach out to help our DPS family, consider safety issues in our own jobs, and deal with the reality that our world is changing in ways that could destroy everything we have worked for if we do not plan for it. This article is just to clarify the options we have with DPS and outside of DPS to plan for the critical financial issues.

The first thing most people would agree on is life insurance and long-term disability insurance that can replace our income, especially if others depend on us for that income. Some insurance is sold as a method to give surviving family a means and method to pay for a funeral. While that is not necessarily a bad option, I personally mitigate the red tape issues involved in this process by using other avenues to pay for a funeral that do not involve pre-paying or using insurance. After watching my family and friends' families deal with trying to make sure a funeral is paid for, I believe having that money on hand is the best way to handle that. My grandfather pre-paid his funeral, and the company eventually went out of business. By the time he died, there was no one there to honor his paid for funeral.

Insurance is best used to replace an income and should be about 12 times the annual income of the person who is purchasing the insurance. The simple reason for that number is that we can invest that insurance amount in something that can be used to replace the annual income from the insured. The goal is to create a yearly income close to the amount that was lost upon the death of the insurance holder. A simple explanation goes something like this: If I have one million dollars in term life insurance, I can replace a \$100,000 dollar a year to a \$120,000 a year income from the capital gains interests off that insurance money if it is invested in solid mutual funds that have been around a long time and perform well.

Having that amount of money, and even money that may be raised for you or your family in the tragic event of a death, is great security for you and those closes to you. It shows generosity and care to our spouses by letting them know they will be taken care of even if we are no longer there to take care of them. The big question comes when life after the death starts to become the new normal. Most of us know that when "investment" and "insurance" companies know about our intent to invest, or that we have a lot of money with no plan, they come out of nowhere with many different options for our money. How do we know where to put our money to mitigate as much risk as possible while maintaining a decent capital gain for us to go on with our lives? This should be done together with the policy holder and the beneficiary (your spouse, family, or friend). Talk to several financial advisors, I recommend three or more, and choose one or two that speak to you with the intent to educate you rather than force you into what they want you to do. Vet them and use them for your IRA plans. If the day comes when your life insurance policy is used, the beneficiary will know exactly who they can turn to with the insurance money to replace our yearly income.

If you would like to know what I look for in an insurance carrier or a financial advisor, please feel free to contact me and we can set up a quick meeting no matter where you are. I can do this on or off duty. I will be leaving DPS in a little over a year, despite our new pay increase, and I would like to help as many folks in the law enforcement community as possible before I leave. We have great resources through ERS to help us all retire wealthy.

Disability insurance is just as tricky a subject as life insurance. There is so much available, but what do we need and what do we have already with our employer? There are a few discussions from people on this topic, but most financial folks I talk to (including me) recommend long term disability insurance which covers disability after a period of three to six months depending on the policy. An emergency fund of three to six months of monthly expenses kept in an easily accessible account can eliminate the need for short term disability payments and policies. Most of us also have access to more than three months of sick and vacation time as well that can be used to maintain income for those months. Most long-term disability policies only replace about 60% (maybe 65%) of the policy holder's income. When looking for a good long term disability policy, make sure to ask about the length, the replacement income, and the waiting period before it activates. There are also gap insurance plans that can cover most of the remaining, uninsured portion of income. These plans can be purchased inside and outside of our place of employment. The important part is to have insurance in place BEFORE something happens. Putting it off is easy because it is probably not something we understand

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*Amarillo DPS Employees Benefit Was a Success Thanks to All of the Help.*

completely, and it is easier to ignore it. It is never too late until it is. But when it is too late, it is too late forever.

Investing for retirement in tax sheltered accounts outside of DPS is also something I highly recommend. That may sound a little off topic, but it is a great way to plan for death or a life altering injury. The reason for this is because it gives the surviving family members an idea of who they can turn to after death. If we are already using one or more trusted certified financial advisors who we have already spent time vetting, this eliminates the pressure on a surviving family member to find someone they can really trust to take care of them. During a grieving process, we as humans tend to make worse decisions because we are so focused on our loss. It is hard to think during those times and we need to have someone in place who we trust before they happen. In addition to Texa\$aver, I recommend using financial advisors outside of DPS and ERS with multiple tax-sheltered accounts for your family and your future. Picking a financial advisor just takes a little bit of leg work and some conversation and does not cost anything.

The final action I recommend is doing some homework when it comes to finance. Not only is our personal finance something that can give us options to retire early, but it also controls the biggest part of our future options when it comes to living the life we REALLY want to live and not just the one we resign ourselves to living based on the limited options that we have. A little time spent learning about what a tax-sheltered account is, what a Roth option is, what traditional means, and what mutual funds are giving the best average return since inception can help us create options for ourselves that others do not have. It can help us retire before we are 50 or allow us to stay if we want. Although money can be labeled as evil, ultimately it is how we use it that determines whether it is

evil. Using it to create a passive income can create security and calm not just for us but for our family as well.

I hope that each of you never have to use any source of insurance discussed today. Cambridge University geneticist Aubrey de Grey has stated that the first person to live to be a thousand years old is certainly alive today. Whether or not that happens will remain to be seen. This century has already brought tremendous changes and proclamations of human expansion never considered. Throughout the ever-increasing list of exciting opportunities for our future, one thing seems to remain constant- we will still encounter serious problems and unexpected misfortunes. Most of us know it is our duty to prepare for those unforeseen events.

A lot of these things are a little hard to understand sometimes. They certainly were for me when I was beginning to worry about my life and my family's future if I died. Most of you can probably understand them much faster than I did. But, if you have any questions about anything in this article or any previous articles I have submitted, please feel free to contact me with your questions. 806.336.9100. Stay safe and stay prepared.

Joe Cannon,

DPSOA Region 5 Representative □

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## REGION 6 – CENTRAL TEXAS

Monte Carroll,  
DPSOA Region 6 Representative

Greetings from  
Central Texas.

There has been so much that has happened since the last article. We have survived the February 2021 winter storm, otherwise known as Winter Storm Uri. This winter weather event reminded me of some of the severe winter weather that Texans experienced in 1985. It may be a while before we see another snowstorm such as Uri or we may have another one next year. I know of several troopers that now have snowshoe attachments that slip over their boots, and they are more prepared for the next winter storm. I suspect that the troopers in the Panhandle already had these types of attachments, but they are not something we typically need in Central Texas. It will not hurt my feelings if we do not have the opportunity to use snowshoe attachments for a while.

As many of you know, Central Texas commissioned personnel have transitioned away from our assignments at the Capitol and we are now spending a couple of weeks in support of Operation Lone Star (OLS) along the Texas-Mexico border. I know Region 6 personnel performed in an admirable fashion during our time at the Capitol and I am confident that we will do the same with OLS.

I want to take a few minutes to publicly thank everyone who was active on the DPSOA's legislative team. I had the opportunity to view several videos of Clay and Richard speaking at committee



Sergeant Ryan McKittrick providing guidance to members of the Lampasas High School Criminal Justice class as the students experience the law enforcement side of high risk stops.



Blue line flag over the procession route for Trooper Chad Walker's funeral in Groesbeck.

hearings and I know they did an outstanding job representing the Association's membership. I also want to thank our legislative lobby team of Ky Ash, Eric Wright, and Myra Leo. The legislative session will be coming to an end soon. It is nice to know that the Governor, Lt. Governor, and the Texas Legislature recognized the need to provide a pay raise to our Police Communication Operators and our commissioned personnel. We had fallen behind in pay in comparison

to our law enforcement partners from the seven largest agencies around the state. Now for us to sort through all the new legislation and see how it affects everyone.

I am saddened to have to write about the line-of-duty death of Chad Walker. While we were on different sides of the District, I knew Chad and know that he will be dearly missed by his family, his friends, and his DPS family. These

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*Roadside Memorial for Trooper Chad Walker in Limestone County, near Mexia.*



*Region 5 Troopers who were on their way home after a week on Capitol Duty and who readily assisted with a fatal crash investigation on US Highway 183 in Mills County in Region 6. The names of the Region 5 Troopers who assisted included: Sgt. Jerry Johnson and Trooper Scott Joiner, Trooper Ricka McKee, Trooper Danny Castro, Trooper Jaime Galindo, Trooper Logan Porter, Trooper Bobby Garcia, and Trooper Aaron Whitehead.*



*Members of Sergeant Area 6C13 San Antonio in front of the Alamo.*



*North entrance to the Capitol with the Covid Testing site in place.*

are dangerous times. With that, it is also nice to know the Department will be receiving funding to provide ballistic windshields for our patrol units. This is an improvement that has been needed for a long time. Far too many troopers have been shot and killed while still seated in their patrol units. So again, I say thank you to the Legislature for approving the funding for protection provided by the ballistic windshields.

I am sure that it has been mentioned elsewhere in this edition of the DPSOA magazine, but I wanted to remind everyone to consider attending the 2021 DPSOA Conference in Rockwall. The

Conference will be held at Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakefront on Lake Ray Hubbard on September 30th to Oct 2nd. The annual golf tournament is planned for Thursday, September 30th at the nearby Buffalo Creek Golf Course.

I also want to say that I am proud to be a member of an association that does so much for its membership. I will not go into details, but DPSOA has done an exceptional job at responding to assorted requests for financial support. From assisting with CVE Truck Challenges and Retiree Firearms Qualifications to providing financial assistance to members in need, DPSOA has done far more

than I think many realize. That would not be possible without a strong membership. Thank you to every member who continues to support the Association and its efforts to assist its membership. It is always frustrating to hear about a financial need request and then learn that the person in need is not a member of the Association.

In closing, please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions and concerns.

Be safe and watch your six.

Until next time,

Monte Carroll  
DPSOA Region 6 Representative □



## REGION 7 – CAPITOL

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*Tyler Warner,  
DPSOA Region 7 Representative*

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Howdy from Region VII!

I hope everyone is doing well. My name is Tyler Warner and I currently serve as a patrol Sergeant for Capitol Patrol and Security Operations. I graduated from class B-13, and was stationed in Fairfield from 2014-2016, and in Corsicana from 2016-2019. I then promoted to Odessa-West as Highway

Patrol Sergeant before coming to Austin and the Capitol. I am excited to have been appointed as the new Region VII representative. I replaced Sergeant Nathaniel Allison as the previous representative, and would like to extend my appreciation to Sgt. Allison for his service as the prior Region VII representative. At the time of this writing, legislative session has successfully come to an end with a special session scheduled. This session was very special in many ways. COVID-19 proved to

be an obstacle and Troopers were deployed across the state to assist in the security of the Capitol Complex. Many of the meetings extended into long and late hours. Each day Troopers tirelessly stood watch over our State Capitol as lawmakers were hard at work. It was a proud time for the Department to know our Troopers were standing watch, assisting visitors and ensuring the safety of all that worked at and visited the Capitol during

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*Firearms.*

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*HOR acknowledgment.*



*Honor Guard at PO Mem.*

session. Many bills were passed and DPSOA representatives spent countless hours advocating for our Troopers. We owe our representatives a debt of grat-

itude for their hard work to advocate on our behalf. DPSOA supported visiting Troopers by providing drinks and snacks during session. At the conclusion of

session, the House of Representatives recognized DPS Troopers for their hard work. Region VII Troopers also had the honor of participating in the Peace Officer's Memorial at Headquarters. This special event recognizes the Troopers that have made the ultimate sacrifice and allows us to remember their dedication. The Honor Guard and Mounted Patrol participated and did a wonderful job. As usual, Troopers completed their Spring Firearms Qualifications. This always allows Troopers an opportunity to not only qualify, but fellowship and grow closer together. Although it was a busy first several months in Region VII, the area has persevered and will continue to proudly represent the department at our State Capitol.

Stay safe out there, until next time!

Nathanial Allison  
Capitol Representative □



## RETIREE REPRESENTATIVE

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*Alex Bartee,  
DPSOA Retiree Representative*

HELLO from your DPSOA Retiree Representative, Alex Bartee!.

For those who are not aware, let me introduce you to the DPS Roadrunners. The DPS Roadrunners are a group of retirees, mostly who own an RV. The group meets in April and October at RV campgrounds. The past two gatherings were in Fredericksburg. An RV is not required, as there are many hotels in the area. Trail Master Jim Kaelin, (Corpus Christi), ramrods these events. He arranges for nice door prizes and delicious meals. Leonard Hinojosa (Kyle, TX), Darryl Jiral (San Marcos), Joe Hamilton (San Antonio) and I completed a foursome at Lady Bird Golf Course. We welcome more golfers to join us! It was good seeing old friends from all over Texas, and making some new friends, too. Lots of war stories were shared. Lloyd Hemphill entertained us with funny stories about "the way it was" back in the early days.



*L to R: Bobby Parkinson, James Haley, Judy Haley, Alex Bartee (retired THP Cuero ...now DPSOA retiree rep.), Roy Murphy, John Salter, Pete Wilkerson (retired THP Sgt. Granbury), Jerry Hatley, Michael Stark, Trey Ellis, Harry Taylor, and Don Stewart (retired L&W Denton).*



DPS Retirees will have qualified with pistols by the time this article is published. I hope to have some pictures from the qualifications in Austin, Corpus Christi, Fredericksburg, Waco, and Cleveland (Houston area). If you have pictures from quals in your area, please send photos with names and information to [abartee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:abartee@sbcglobal.net). I will submit them for the next magazine article.

The last week of April, Colleen and I joined DPSOA Director Clay Taylor in Branson, Missouri for the NTC Spring Conference. If you are a member of DPSOA, you are a member of NTC. There were about 130 state troopers from about 31 states present at the Conference. There are 41,000 troopers from 43 states in this association. The NTC

represents all state troopers on the federal level. They provide on the Federal level what DPSOA does for our troopers on the state level.

DPSOA Executive Director Clay Taylor and DPSOA President Richard Jankovsky are spending a lot of time at the Texas Capital testifying in several committees. A big THANK YOU to them for working hard for the retirees, as well as active Troopers, Agents, Communications, and other members of the DPS family.

On the way to Branson, Colleen and I passed through Paris, Texas. I called my old friend and fellow DPS firearms



*The San Antonio DPS Breakfast Brothers at Jim's Restaurant.*

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Leonard Hinojosa (Kyle, TX) got a tee time at Lady Bird Golf course and Darryl Jiral (San Marcos), Joe Hamilton (San Antonio) and I completed a 4some.



Lloyd Hemphill telling us about "the way it was" back in the early days. He had some funny stories.



Some of the Roadrunner attendees getting good food.

instructor Johnny Williams. He invited us to join him in what occupies his time since he fully retired. Yes, Paris, Texas has an Eiffel Tower with a red cowboy hat on top. The Eiffel Tower is right next to the Red River Veterans' Memorial.



Happy shooters at the Fredericksburg range.



Fellow DPS firearms instructor Johnny Williams.



YES.... Paris Texas HAS an Eiffel Tower...with a RED Cowboy hat on top.

The Red River Veterans' Memorial is a wonderful place that pays respect to our veterans. Make sure you stop by.



NTC Conference in Branson, MO.



Recording Secretary Clay Taylor and Alex Bartee at the Spring Conference of the NTC in Branson, MO.

It will be time well spent. The Memorial pays tribute to the survivors of our fallen soldiers from all US-involved



*The Red River Veteran's Memorial.*

wars. There is another memorial at this site honoring K-9 veterans as well.

Come join your Brothers of the Badge, 2nd Wednesday, each month at Jim's, Blanco @ Loop 1604, San Antonio. 8:30am.... Thanks to the ACTIVE Troopers (Lt. and Sgts.) who came to share time with the Ole Folks.

From James Hailey: Early this morning in Canyon our group of 'First Friday' lie, brag, and remember when, were joined by guys visiting Trey Ellis. Bobby Parkinson, James Haley, Judy Haley, Alex Bartee (retired THP Cuero ...now DPSOA retiree rep.), Roy Murphy, John Salter, Pete Wilkerson (retired THP Sgt. Granbury), Jerry Hatley, Michael Stark, Trey Ellis, Harry Taylor, and Don Stewart (retired L&W Denton).

I am glad Trey brought me some help to keep this unruly bunch in check. Always good to get together with friends and new friends: much like a family reunion but without the squabbling.

I attended a retiree qualification in Corpus Christi that was hosted by Lt. Martinez. Our lead Range Officer was Trooper Clayton Sullivan. Lt. Martinez and Lt. Ochoa grilled hamburgers and hotdogs and provided the good fixings. Cpl. Jim Hildreth assisted as range officer along with Cpl. Vasquez, Sgt. Villarreal, and Sgt. Wallek. A special THANK YOU to Captain Steve

McQuagge who allows and encourages his sergeants and lieutenants to attend and help with retiree qualifications. He will be retired at some time and wants his lieutenants and sergeants to carry on the tradition of helping retirees. We had 19 retirees who safely qualified, shared some good food, met old friends, and made new friends.

On 5/13/2021 we had about 30 happy shooters at the Fredericksburg range. Some came early, shot, and left. Others came a little later. Trying to get a picture of all retirees is like herding cats. We did manage to round up 14

shooters and keep them still long enough to get a fast shutter speed camera to get their picture. Thank you, Sgt. Eric Morgan, THP Kerrville, for organizing and serving as our range officer. We all qualified safely.

We have been busy since Covid subsided. Contact me if I can be of service. Stay healthy and good luck!

Alex Bartee  
Retiree Representative  
[abartee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:abartee@sbcglobal.net)  
C - 210-913-9550

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## RETIREE REPRESENTATIVE

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*Darla Freeman,  
DPSOA Retiree Representative*

As a retiree now, I wanted to talk to all of you, both active and retired, about planning for the future. When we joined DPS, most of us completed our employee sign-up packet. You filled out pages of documents. A lot of those had to do with insurance and picking what type of benefits we wanted or needed. Many of us were young when we started our DPS career, so we did not think about our needs in the future or retirement or maybe, even about having a family. Then boom, things get busy, we start having life changes, marriage, kiddos, buying a home, moving, maybe more kiddos or even divorce or death of a spouse. We do not always think about all that paperwork we filled out in the beginning of our career. Sure, we can add new spouse or kid to our insurance at any time but any other changes to your insurance or Texas Employee Retirement plan can only be done at summer enrollment. But did you know, you can change or update your beneficiary at any time? ERS has made it easy by allowing that document to be emailed/faxed to them.

Many of you also joined an association when you first signed up. If you joined in the last few years, it is easy to join DPSOA and your dues are taken directly from your paycheck in the form of payroll deduction. We have found several of our DPSOA members are still paying the old dues of \$15.00 not the current monthly dues of \$25.00, which was changed 10/1/2013. When this change occurred, we sent out notices and a new authorization form. You needed to send back the authorization form agreeing to the new membership fee or cancel your membership. Unfortunately, a few never completed this process so are only paying the \$15.00, which causes the member to no longer be in good standing. How do you fix this, you ask? You can contact the Association and make sure you are up to date on your dues and a new authorization form completed.

I am bringing all of this up because, in the past, we have had members get injured, need legal representation or a death has occurred. It is devastating to all parties to have to inform them that they or their loved one is not



covered. Or they are covered but never updated those important documents like their death beneficiary. Not having an updated death beneficiary puts extra stress on the family member, they then have to go through probate to get the much-needed death benefits. We never think it is going to happen to us, but we need to occasionally reevaluate our insurance, life insurance, and pension needs. Have there been any life changes, does my current plan take care of me and my family needs if something tragic happens? Do I have a will? Do I have a living will? Do I need a living will? What is a living will (a written statement detailing

a person's desire regarding their medical treatment in circumstances in which they are no longer able to express informed consent, especially an advance directive)? Am I a donor? Does my family know about my wishes? Have you talked to them about your thoughts or plans? Does a trusted family member know how to find these documents or who to go to about your benefits and life insurance?

I implore you to not wait until your retirement date looms to start reviewing all those documents from when you were first hired. Periodically, check your ERS account, review your paycheck for all deductions, update your beneficiary forms, both at work and your association. DPSOA offers one free will, which is provided to a new member at sign up. The Association attorney will make changes and updates to the original will, but it is at a cost to the member.

We never want to be one of the statistics, but if something tragic happens, have a detailed plan. It will help your loved ones when they are needing you the most.

Our times have changed, and we want all of you to reap the benefits of retirement. It is a great and honorable profession, but we all know we must take steps to protect ourselves.

Stay safe out there.

Darla Freeman  
Retiree Representative

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## RETIREE REPRESENTATIVE

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Wayne Williams,  
DPSOA Retiree Representative

As I sit here trying to collect my thoughts, I can only think about how our country and citizens are moving backwards as a civilization. We are having police officers killed or shot almost daily, with more police officers leaving this notable career. Our society seems out of control.

Recently, in Burleson, TX a police officer was shot multiple times, and then an hour later the suspect carjacked a lady and killed her. Why do people have to act like animals? It has always happened in our past, but it just seems to be more prevalent now. Sadly, Trooper Walker was killed before he could even get out of his car. Trooper Tovar was shot, and by the Grace of God, he is still with us, but his life and that of his family will forever be changed. How have we gotten into this mess? How can it be fixed? How can we get back to some type of normalcy? Most citizens back the officers but that is not enough. When an officer is killed, a lot of money is raised for the surviving family, but that does not fix the problem.

One solution is to go back to a two-man unit. To hell with coverage. It is high time our officers' safety comes first. We also need bulletproof windshields. DPS can test all they want, but they need to get the approval from the Legislature and move forward with outfitting every unit that is on the road. You have seen me make posts on Facebook about how many of these police shootings could be avoided by just complying with the officer's request. Especially if there is a warrant for that person's arrest. Just COMPLY with the arrest, go peacefully, and make bond and get out of jail. When a suspect resists arrest and



wants to run or take some type of force against being arrested, only bad things can come out of that action. The police are going to take a force just greater than the force being used against them, possibly resulting in deadly force being used against them. In the end, it is going to affect someone's family, the police officer's or the suspect's. People can make choices and unfortunately some of these choices some people make are not good. Some lawmakers think we need to control the guns when I say again and again, it is the people that kill people. Making tougher gun laws do not and will not keep people from killing people. People must respect each other and that is not the case now. Our society has been lacking in respect of

each other. It is so sad. I am mad, upset, and feel like I do not have anything I can do as a retired trooper to help this situation. Where is the outrage when an LEO is killed or shot in the line of duty? All we see is when a rogue officer makes a bad mistake and gets arrested because he or she make a bad choice, the head story of the news is the arrest or trial of that officer. When an officer makes a mistake, his department, city or state makes the multi-million-dollar awards to the family. Why don't we start suing the families of the bad guy? Make them pay just like the innocent city government or state government pay. Make them accountable just like they do the departments.

As always, be careful out there and keep your head above water and be safe.

Wayne Williams  
Retiree Representative  
wcw4114@gmail.com  
C - 808.690.6000

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# Those Who Keep Us Safe.